

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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December 4, 2003**PR03-73****LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS WITH ABC TO COMBAT
BINGE AND UNDERAGE DRINKING ON UC CAMPUSES**

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) announced today that, along with the University of California (UC), it is partnering with six local law enforcement agencies to address student alcohol abuse. The following local law enforcement agencies are joining in the effort to increase enforcement activities around selected UC campuses:

- Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department (Isla Vista)
- Los Angeles Police Department
- Irvine Police Department
- Berkeley Police Department
- San Diego Police Department
- Santa Cruz Police Department

Mini-grants of \$50,000 will be presented to each of the local law enforcement agencies in January to support prevention, education and enforcement activities, said ABC Acting Director Jerry R. Jolly at a grant training conference held today in San Luis Obispo. The mini-grants will cover an 18-month period and are federally funded through the Office of Traffic Safety as part of an overall \$1 million allocation to the partnership between the State of California and UC.

"This partnership with local law enforcement agencies gives us the tools and resources to implement proven programs and strengthen campus alcohol policy enforcement," Jolly said.

Said Larry Darwent, an officer with the San Diego Police Department: "We are looking forward to continuing our working relationship with the college community and are confident we can make an impact on some of the student alcohol issues around binge drinking and underage drinking."

The State of California will now have active partnerships with both the UC and California State University System (CSU) by the signing of Memoranda of Understanding that commit the resources of the State to work cooperatively to help identify the scope and nature of the problems on individual campuses and focus specific strategies to address the problems in the communities. As the lead agency, ABC has worked with the CSU Chancellor's Office and the UC Office of the President to pursue grant funding opportunities and develop joint programs. The efforts are believed to be the first in the nation to address statewide, multiple institutions of higher education in such a comprehensive, coordinated effort.

"What is exciting about these partnerships is that it involves not only prevention and enforcement strategies, but also a focus on environmental strategies, such as changing keg registration processes. Reducing access to alcohol in the place where students live, study and socialize is crucial to reducing underage and binge drinking," said Onolee Zwicke, Director of the Isla Vista Alcohol and Drug Council, UCSB.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.